


**Directorate for Biological Sciences
Office of the Assistant Director**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2011

TO: Pamela J. O'Neil, Office of Integrative Activities

FROM: Joann P. Roskoski, Acting AD, BIO 

SUBJECT: Report of the Committee of Visitors for the Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI)

The CoV report for the Division of Biological Infrastructure was discussed and accepted at the October 6-7, 2010 meeting of the BIO Advisory Committee. Attached, please find the CoV report, BIO's formal response to the recommendations of the CoV, and the list of CoV members.

The credibility of the CoV mechanism rests, in large measure, on the selection of credible, independent experts who are able to provide balanced and impartial assessments to NSF. Prior to issuing letters of invitation to serve on the DBI CoV, the DBI Division Director and Deputy Division Director were consulted regarding potential CoV candidates. Program Directors in DBI also were instrumental in identifying and selecting the membership of the CoV.

The CoV represented a broad segment of the disciplines consistent with the scope of activities for which DBI has oversight responsibilities. The committee was composed of 7 members, including one who represented the BIO Advisory Committee. Two of the members are female, and one is from an underrepresented minority. Members currently work in six different states, including the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Oregon, Arizona, Ohio and Texas. Six members are from academic institutions and one is from government. None of the 7 had served as DBI panelists in the last five years; 5 of the 7 had not been applicants to DBI within the past five years.

Committee members were advised about confidentiality and conflicts of interest both prior to arriving at NSF and at the inception of the meeting. There were no conflicts of interest among CoV members.

Attachments